

Snow surveys results, short Sierra forecast

Yesterday's results at Phillips on Highway 50 came in at 123% of long-term average, with 23.6" water content, and 73.1" snow depth. For the official press release including elevations of the 4 stations taken yesterday, go to:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/news/newsreleases/2008/013108snow.pdf>

Sensor measurements give an indication of what the courses measurements will be, with course measurements being more accurate.

	Snow water content	% of normal to date
Northern Sierra	23"	125%
Central Sierra	21"	106%
Southern Sierra	19"	125%
Statewide Average	21"	118%

For the incoming February 1 readings, and the site to watch for final Feb. 1 tabulations, go to:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/COURSES>

The window for statewide survey results will be extended into early next week, due to inclement weather.

Sierra weekend forecast:

Surveyors will not have a clear weekend. This will be another major winter storm over the 2-day period. Look for strong south to southwest winds up into Shasta and over the Sierra, (west to northwest initially southern Sierra), with gusts to 70 mph over the ridges. Snow levels will start at 4,500' in the North, dropping to 2,500' on Saturday night and Sunday. The southern Sierra will have a snow level between 5,500' to maybe 6,000' Saturday, then a drop to 4,000' Sunday. Precipitable water amounts will range from 1.5 – 2.5" across the Sierra this weekend.

Snow total forecasts from the National Weather Service indicate two to three feet higher elevations.

Monday, Feb. 4 however, looks dry up and down the Sierra. Microclimates notwithstanding, expect sunny skies and north to northeast winds 15–30 knots. Tuesday brings a small shortwave to the far northern part of the state, but most basins will have dry weather, and lighter winds.

Avalanche danger link, very good to track for those that need it:

<http://www.avalanche-center.org/Bulletins/#California>

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